



Imagine, Believe, Achieve

6 September 2019

Dear Parent / Carer

This week we welcomed back all of our students for the new year ahead. It was fantastic to see so many happy smiling faces, looking immaculate in their uniform. My thanks go out to all parents who have supported our efforts in ensuring that all students are in full uniform despite the problems we have had with our current supplier. To update you all on the current situation, I am meeting them in College next week to discuss our significant concerns, and about whether we will be renewing their contract next year.

I hope that many of you saw the photos that were released of our Year 11s on exam results day. As teachers it is days like this, when we see students celebrating as they are rewarded for all of their hard work, that always makes their and our efforts worthwhile.

We will be updating the website shortly when we receive confirmation of the overall results from the Department for Education, but I did want to share some of the provisional figures with you now. Our overall Progress figure has improved this year reversing the trend of the last couple of years. I am also really pleased to report that the gap in progress for our disadvantaged students has halved in a year. Results were up in Maths and English, as were outcomes in Triple Science, Music and French to name a few. Grades achieved at the higher end of the scale were also noticeably better, acknowledging the fact that we are pushing our students to achieve the best grades that they are capable of.

Whilst the improvements are there, I am also clear that they are not yet to the level that we want them to be as a College. However, with the curriculum changes across the years we have introduced, the changes in ethos and expectations, and with your continued support, we will continue this upward journey.

Before we broke up for the summer, we did an online consultation regarding parents' evenings and the dates and times that we are looking at for this year. We had a large number of responses with no clear outcome. We have, therefore, decided to keep the same system for this year; however, we have had to change two evenings to alternative days of the week due to new bank holidays and the Easter break. All are in the College calendar.

I am extremely grateful to the site team who have put in an extraordinary amount of work over the holidays to refurbish and refresh large parts of the College. We have a completed new community library, a full hall repaint, a refurbished canteen and servery, a new outside hardstanding area for students and the new Hub ICT space is nearly complete. The new windows are ahead of schedule as is the replacement roofs. We look forward to showing you around when you are next in the College.

We have an exciting year ahead with lots of brilliant events and activities planned. All of us are ready for the next stage in the College's journey, to continue the work we have already begun.

Yours faithfully

Daniel Baxby
Principal